

**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME**



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DP/PROJECTS/7497

ENGLISH

**APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
SIERRA LEONE**

IPF: (1992-1996) \$41 426 000
(SIL/89/008) - Inland Valley Swamp Development

Date of approval by the AC:^{1/}

9 June 1993

Expected duration:

Three years

Proposed executing agency:

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the
United Nations (FAO)

Government implementing agency:

Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Proposed UNDP contribution:

\$1 638 000 Source of funds: IPF

Total UNDP budget:

\$1 638 000

Project background

The economy and sustained well-being of Sierra Leone are very much dependent on agriculture, which is a very important [productive sector accounting for over 40 percent of the gross domestic (GDP), 30 percent of export earnings, and employs up to 70 percent of the country's active labour force. As the national food staple, rice is the most important agricultural product. With the progressive decline experienced in the country's social and economic conditions over the past 20 years, Sierra Leone has moved from the position of net exporter of the commodity during the early 1970's to that of a net importer today. Current production levels stand at around 500,000 metric tons against average domestic requirements of 900,000 metric tons per year. The balance has to be imported but, in the face of extremely unfavorable economic and financial conjectures, the Government has to explore alternative means of domestically meeting the shortfall.

Five ecological niches have been traditionally used for rice cultivation, namely: upland, mangrove swamp, Boliland, riverain grassland and inland valley swamp areas. Inland Valley Swamps (IVS) have thus far been proved to have the highest rice production because of their assured water supply, and generally high soil fertility. Research by the national rice research station at Rokupr has demonstrated that use of nitrogenous fertilizer could increase yield to more than four tons per hectare in the IVS. On the basis of past work in inland valley swamp development, the Government has adopted rice development production in these areas as a priority strategy in augmenting domestic production of this national staple. To this end it has requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

UNDP assistance in inland valley swamp development started as far back as 1965. Between 1976 and 1990 a series of four related projects, namely: Assistance to Rokupr Rice

^{1/} This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

DEC 1993

Research Station (SIL/76/008), Land and Water Development (SIL/80/010), Inland Valley Swamp Rice Project (SIL/82/005), and Inland Swamp Development (SIL/86/001) contributed to the carrying out of appropriate research and field trials relating to different rice ecologies, establishment of appropriate capacities and mechanisms for land development and irrigation schemes on a country-wide basis, and of facilitating pilot operations for increasing IVS rice production with a view to reducing pressure on the uplands.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to cultivate rice in inland valley swamps and associated uplands with a view to increasing production and achieving national self sufficiency as well as rural family incomes, leading to improved living conditions and overall human development. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) refine and adopt IVS land development technology and spread its use by Farmers' Associations; (b) give direct assistance to farmers to promote increased production of rice and other food crops in IVS and adjacent uplands; (c) enhance skills and capacity development among farmers and extension workers of the department of Agriculture and Forestry; and (d) promote rural credit schemes with particular emphasis on women members of Farmers' Associations.

The project's target will be to develop and bring into production 200 hectares of traditional sample with the active, grassroots participation of about 270 farmers. Trials and pilot work will be carried out on rice multiple cropping patterns, integration of upland and swamp farming systems, and fish culture.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 36 work-months for a CTA rice agronomist, 10 work-months of consultancies in the field of swamp development engineering, oil palm agronomy, credit, small-scale rice post-harvest handling and processing, rizipisciculture and farmers Association development, soil resources and planning; three UNVs and a WID officer; administrative support staff; a subcontract for locally contracted casual workers; fellowships, group and in-service training; expendable and non-expendable equipment; and sundry, miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	\$
Personnel	893 000
Subcontract	40 000
Training	70 000
Equipment	280 000
Miscellaneous	355 000
Total	<u>1 638 000</u>